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Bangalore Mirror

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PAGE 7

Set of 2 heritage mandapas demolished after white-topping stretch on Ashoka Pillar Road

THE RAZE TO FINISH HERITAGE

Citizens demand ward-level 'heritage manifesto'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A set of two heritage mandapas located on Ashoka Pillar Road near Lalbagh were razed to the ground by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) after white topping the stretch.

Now this has left residents of the area fuming. They alleged that along with the mandapas, a heritage tree with cultural significance was felled too.

"I was extremely disheartened after seeing that they have demolished both the mandapas and the tree which I have grown up with from my childhood days. Heritage trees are going away in the name of making the city smart," said a resident of the area.

According to the residents, while the civic body has been white-topping the stretch for some time now, removing the mandapas was never on the cards.

"I was recently passing by the area when I noticed the white-topping work. I stopped and enquired with the workers and BBMP officials present on the spot about the structure and the heritage tree. They said the structure will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"BBMP should put the structure back in its original place. Let them go through the rubble and put it back

– Priya Chetty Rajagopal, founder, Heritage Beku

What civic staff want

Waste sector workers to go on strike; seek permanent jobs, abolition of exploitative contract system

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Door-to-door garbage collection and transportation of trash to the landfills are expected to be affected from Monday — if the workers engaged in transport of solid waste, including drivers, helpers, loaders and cleaners, go ahead with their plan to go on strike.

Hundreds of workers involved in transportation of solid waste - drivers, helpers, loaders and cleaners - staged a protest at the BBMP head office on Monday, seeking the complete abolition of the exploitative contract system and to provide permanent jobs to all the workers. They sought the recommendations of the IPD Salappa Committee Report be implemented with immediate effect.

"We have been demanding regularisation of all workers engaged in collection of garbage from door to door and people engaged in transporting trash to the landfills but in vain. Whenever we submit a memorandum, the authorities give assurance but never meet our demands," said Nirmala, president of BBMP Pourakarmika Sangha.

She said when the pourakarmikas staged a strike in July 2022, the state government assured that the services of pourakarmikas across the state would be made permanent, whereas the drivers, helpers, loaders and cleaners who transport solid waste

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Ethnic wear

Catch a special Rajasthani handloom exhibition that is displaying ethnic and contemporary arts and crafts, clothing, handloom sarees, jewellery, home décor, furniture, and handicraft products direct from the artisans and craft persons from across India.
Where: Soudamini Kalyana Mantapa, JP Nagar; When: Till April 2, 10 am – 8.30 pm
Phones: 89518 99961 / 94829 59786

02 Trouble Clef, live

Hard Rock Cafe presents an electrifying performance by Trouble Clef, paying homage to two of the biggest names in rock music: Bon Jovi & Bryan Adams. The tribute night promises to be a memorable experience for all Bon Jovi and Bryan Adams fans, as Trouble Clef will perform some of the most iconic songs from these legendary artists' discographies.
Where: Hard Rock Café,
When: When: March 18, 9 pm onwards

03 Just jam away

Participate in an evening of music at Lahe Lahe. The session will have musical aficionados come and jam together and form a community of like-minded musical souls. What's more, you can even tune out a few songs of yourself too!
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: March 15, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Hope, only after death

Health experts organise seminar to address common superstitions and myths surrounding organ donation

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Several health experts have joined hands to create awareness on the importance of organ donation after death through a seminar that will be held on March 16 at APA Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar.

Members of the Nephrology Association of Karnataka and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation aim at shedding light on the long-standing beliefs and misunderstandings related to religion and cultural customs that prevent people from considering organ donation. It is one of the major roadblocks that people face in coming forward as donors who create fear and mistrust among the public.

According to the data from State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation, there are 6,308 patients waiting for organ transplantation across the state. Among the 6,308 patients, 1,378 patients need liver transplantation, 4,743 patients need kidney transplantation, 133 need heart transplantation, and 54 patients need lungs transplantation.

Busting myths about brain death

When a person is declared brain dead in accordance with medical guidelines, they are considered deceased.

However, the organs of a brain-dead person can still be maintained through life-support systems, allowing for successful transplantation to save the lives of up to 8 people and benefit up to 50 others.

These life-saving organs include the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, intestine, hands, and various tissues such as the cornea, skin, tendons, cartilage, and heart valves.

By donating organs after brain death, a person can leave behind a legacy of hope and give the gift of life to that in need. But this is not happening much in the country due to prevalent religious beliefs that discourage people from coming forward as donors.

The seminar seeks to address these misconceptions while aiming to challenge and dispel these misconceptions by convening a diverse group of experts and notable figures from different fields, who will offer their insights and personal experiences on the topic.

Dr Ishthiaque Ahmed, convenor of the seminar said that a smooth sailing organ donation process is a pressing need in India. "We want to alleviate the serious problem of religious misbeliefs and superstitions surrounding organ donation that hinder people from coming forward. Numerous patients in need of several organs are on the waiting list while the number of donors is not even close to meeting the demand. We hope that this seminar will help us spread awareness and educate people about the importance of organ donation," Dr Ishthiaque Ahmed said.

> **"Numerous patients are on the waiting list and number of donors is not even close to meeting demand**
> – Dr Ishthiaque Ahmed

Justice Santhosh Hegde, Former Supreme Court Judge, Former Solicitor General of India, Former Lokayukta, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Founder and Chairman of Narayana Health are expected to attend the seminar.

Tennis tournament that is all about inclusivity

The sixth edition of the Tabebuia Open Wheelchair Tennis tournament will kick off at Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence from Wednesday. The four-day event is being sanctioned by All India Tennis Association (AITA) and held under the aegis of the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA).

The event, which carries a total prize purse of Rs 3.5 lakh, is presented by the CSR arm of L&T Technology Services and has attracted a total of 41 entries including eight women from across six states (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana, and Orissa).

The Tabebuia Open will give the players an opportunity in terms of match practice, ahead of the Nationals to be held in Indore in the last week of March. The star attraction will be 15-year-old Gujjala Raju, India's youngest wheelchair tennis player who makes his professional debut. Raju is a product of IWTT's Junior Program – The First Serve - in collaboration with the RDT and Nadal Foundation at Anantapur Sports Village.

"The Indian Wheelchair Tennis Tour is a wonderful platform to encourage differently abled sportspersons to continue their passion of playing tennis.," said KP Prabhakaran, Head CSR, L&T Technology Services.

Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Somdev Devvarman, who was the first Indian to break into the top-100 in world rankings and is on the advisory committee of IWTT, while addressing the press conference via a video-call said: "It is inspiring to see athletes of all abilities come together to compete and showcase their skill. Tennis has the power to bring people together and to create positive change in the world."

From left: PBI Head Coach Cesar Morales, India No 1 Karthikeya, Chairman IWTT Sunil Jain, Prahlad Srinath, Women India No 1 Shilpa Gowda, Gujjala Raju and Somdev Devvarman (video call).

Former Davis Cupper and Asian Games medalist Prahlad Srinath who was the Guest of Honour at the function, felt that everyone should be given an equal opportunity. "I believe that no sport is easy, especially tennis which is physically demanding. I have seen many wheelchair tennis matches. But it is the same amount of hard work and dedication that is required as for able bodied tennis players. I think they should also be given as many opportunities as regular tennis players get," observed Srinath.

"We want to provide a space where athletes can compete, and fans can come together to celebrate their achievements," said Ved Kumar, General Manager, Padukone Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, which has come on board as the venue partner. **— BMB**

Air hostess was pushed to death by boyfriend, reveals police probe

The case of the suspicious death of an air hostess in Bengaluru has taken a twist with the investigation revealing that her boyfriend pushed her to death as she warned him of legal action for not marrying her, police sources said on Tuesday.

The incident took place on March 11. According to the police, both met through a dating app and fell in love.

"For the last three months, the deceased Archana was forcing her boyfriend Adesh to marry her. But, the accused did not show any interest and postponed it by giving various reasons," police said.

The deceased air hostess, who came to Bengaluru from Dubai, had tough talks with him on marriage. She had told him about her family looking out for alliances.

This had led to arguments between them and the victim, Archana had warned him of initiating legal action against him.

The police investigations have shown that the accused Adesh, enraged by this, allegedly pushed her off from his apartment and killed her.

Police said that after killing her, the accused had called the victim's father and maintained that his daughter fell off from the building in an inebriated state. He had also dialed police and informed them about the incident.

The police have arrested the accused following a complaint by the parents of the deceased air hostess.

They suspected the role of the accused boyfriend and even charged that he had pushed her off from the building.

The incident of the air hostess, who flew down to Bengaluru to meet her male friend suspiciously jumping to death from the apartment was reported on March 11 (Saturday) in Bengaluru.

The incident had taken place in the premises of the Renuka Residency in Koramangala locality on Friday midnight.

Archana, 28, hailed from Himachal Pradesh and worked for a reputed airline company. The accused, Adesh is from Kerala and works in Bengaluru.

Police say man pushed girlfriend because she had threatened to take legal route as he was not agreeing to marry her

CRIME FILES

A case of cop helping thieves?

A constable of Banashankari Police Station has been suspended on the allegation that he helped in a theft. He was serving as constable of crime branch of the Banashankari station. Police had arrested a gang involved in thefts.

During the interrogation of those accused, the thieves gave information about the role of the policeman in the theft. Due to information on his role, the policeman was suspended and an investigation was ordered. — BMB & Agencies

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dentsu/bm blr/01/23

No streetlight at end of tunnel in Gandhi Bazaar

Dug up roads, lack of streetlights, miscommunication between civic agencies irk locals

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While the road has been white topped, work on the footpath is yet to be completed in Gandhi Bazaar; residents also complain that the area becomes dark and unsafe after 9 pm due to the lack of streetlights

White topping work by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been underway on Gandhi Bazaar main road for nearly six months now. However, the leisurely pace of work over the last couple of weeks has irked residents of the area. Dug-up pavements, unattended debris, missing streetlights, and a huge communication gap between the civic agency and residents have led to a growing sense of unease among locals. They say while the white topping work was completed a few days ago, the pavement repair work is moving at a snail's pace.

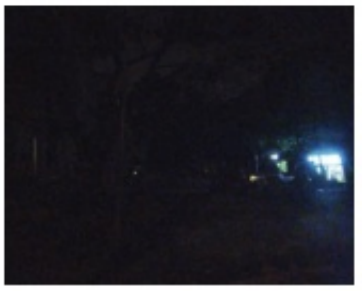
"BBMP has reduced the width of the road considerably and increased the footpath area. While white topping has been completed, the footpath is yet to be done. Currently, the entrance of all the houses on the road is nearly seven inches below the road level, giving us nightmares. For taking out our vehicles, we have to place makeshift ramps to drive them up to the road. At least 60 to 70 families are living along this stretch and many of them are senior citizens," said Sudhindra Benne, a resident.

While BBMP has promised ramps at the entry gates of all the houses after the pavement work is completed, it is the lack of an alternative that has left residents fuming. They also alleged that there is a huge communication gap. There is no clarity on the timeline and no official had spoken to them about the project, even before it started.

"We had to get information through an RTI when the work began six months ago. Everything is being done in a hush-hush manner. Officials should have consulted the residents who are the biggest stakeholders. This is an ill-conceived project. BBMP has not provided any alternate arrangement for us," said another resident.

With pavements dug up and streetlights removed, the stretch also plunges into darkness every night. Locals are thus forced to walk the lanes fearing mishaps and security issues.

"There is no streetlight due to the ongoing construction. In absence of alternate arrangements, the stretch becomes pitch dark after 9 pm. Lights from roadside shops keep the stretch walkable until 9 pm. Around



two weeks back, a shopkeeper fell and fractured his hand while navigating through the dark area. There are many senior citizens here, and in absence of streetlights, it gets scary," said NB Swamy, also a resident.

Locals said they are worried about the upcoming rainy season as the work is far from getting over.

> **"Bengaluru starts receiving rain in May. However, the pace of work has slowed down terribly over the last couple of weeks** – Resident of the area

One such concerned citizen reported that the stretch had a lot of rubble, including iron pieces. "We are going through difficulties every day. Apart from the election season, we are also worried about the upcoming rainy season. Bengaluru starts receiving rain in May. However, the pace of work has slowed down terribly over the last couple of weeks," they informed.

Trash transit in limbo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would be brought under the direct payment system, except those in Bengaluru.

"We have objected to this obvious discrimination of workers and demanded that the workers in BBMP who are being heavily exploited under the contract system also be brought under the direct payment system.

An assurance was made that the same would be considered by the government, but no progress has been made thus far," Nirmala told BM.

The protesting pourakarmikas affiliated to BBMP Pourakarmika Sangha (AICCTU) and Karmika Samrakshana Trade Union, presented a memorandum to the joint commissioner, who assured to look into their demands.

"We have communicated to the BBMP that if they fail to initiate further action towards abolition of the contract system, the workers will be going on strike from Monday," she said.

BBMP, BDA in trouble over pollution

Observing that it was not prudent to pollute the environment in the name of worship, the High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday rebuked the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for allowing construction on the Mallathahalli lake bed during the recent Shivaratri festival.

The Division Bench of Justice B Veerappa and Justice T Venkatesh Naik opined that the civic bodies were primarily responsible for creating litigations.

On Tuesday, petitioner Geetha Mishra filed an interlocutory application in the public interest litigation she had filed against the filling up of the lakebed of Mallathahalli lake in the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly Constituency. She alleged that

File photo of work being done on Mallathahalli Lake in Bengaluru

on Shivaratri an open air theatre and statue of Lord Shiva had been installed on the lakebed.

The BBMP contended that the statue of Shiva was a temporary structure and that it was removed after the festival.

The petitioner's advocate argued that the construction of the idol and the open air theatre resulted in polluted water entering the lake.

The Bench, after considering the arguments of both sides, asked why worship should involve polluting the lake. – PTI

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Encroached pavement

Kammanahalli

The footpath in Nehru main road, Heerti Layout, Kammanahalli, is fully encroached.

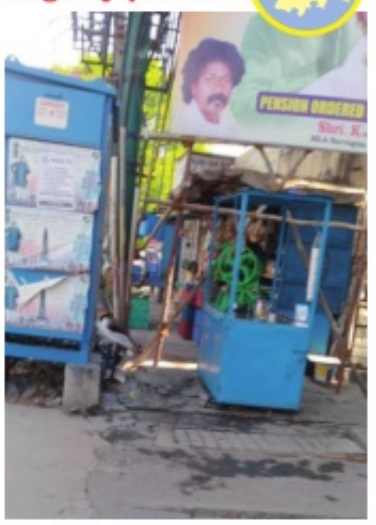
Safety compromised

Lakshmi Theater Road

The road near a big transformer pole was dug up and left like that in Lakshmi Theater Road, Ramamurthy nagar. It is dangerous for two-wheelers

Poster pester

Lingarajapuram



This footpath is blocked by posters in Lingarajapuram, opposite Ujjivan Finance.

Old plot about BBMP, govt, and property tax

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In January 2022, the Karnataka Cabinet had decided to protect over 78,000 citizens from incorrect property tax claims due to faulty zonal classification by the BBMP. However, the order by the government is yet to see the light of day and citizens are running out of patience.

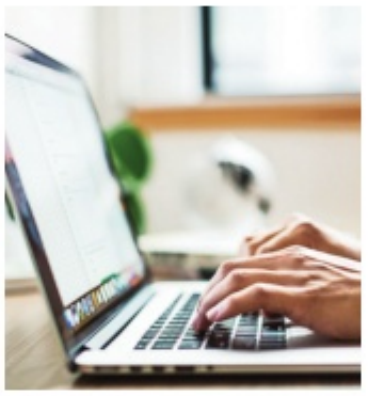
Protests have been going on even before 2022. In a bid to resolve this issue, the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) organised a physical and virtual demonstration involving hundreds of people in September 2021 and also collated an online petition that garnered thousands of signatures and successfully got the attention of the Government of Karnataka, leading to the Cabinet's decision in 2022.

However, administrative delays continue, and citizens pointed out that they are still receiving penalty notifications on account of glitches in the BBMP.

Kiran Srinivas, Resident of Gayatrinagar said, "We have been served with notices for no mistake of ours. Although BBMP assured us that the penalty would be waived, the portal still shows a fine amount being added. The penalties and interest on almost one lakh citizens run from tens of thousands up to several lakhs of rupees. If the government fails to pass the order immediately, citizens will give a befitting answer to the government at the ballot box in the coming elections."

Sridhar Comaravalli, cartoonist, and a resident of JP Nagar said that two -three years ago, he received

Citizens want BBMP to fix the issue in its IT system and provide relief to hapless people forced to pay a penalty



notice for the wrong classification of the property. I got a notice that I must pay Rs 24,549 due to wrong classification. I was shocked as I pay my taxes on time."

On March 7, BNP wrote a letter to the Special Revenue Commissioner of the BBMP requesting him to expedite the issue of GO and also provide a copy of the proposal that the BBMP submitted to the government about the matter. However, BBMP is yet to respond.

Lalithamba from BNP said, "Neither there is any official notification received in compliance with the decision nor is there any clarity on whether or when a suitable government order (GO) is likely to be issued. The government should issue the order and BBMP should fix the flaws in its IT system. "

Safety concerns over insidious happenings at railway stations

Citizens want speedier investigations by authorities after three bodies of women found in three months at railway stations

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Railway platforms are mostly crowded and citizens say officials must be more vigilant

In three months, three bodies of women have been found on railway stations in the city, raising concerns of safety for women in the city.

On Monday night, a body of a woman was recovered from a drum at a railway station in Bengaluru, making it the third such incident in three months. Police said they had received information about the body of a woman inside a drum near the main gate of the Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SAMVT) railway station in Bengaluru.

Karnataka Superintendent of Police (Railway) SK Soumyalatha said that the age of the dead woman is between 32-35 years and her identity is yet to be identified.

Similarly, in the second week of December, 2022, the body of an unidentified woman was found in a yellow bag in a passenger train compartment at SMVT station. The highly decomposed remains of the body were discovered when a passer-by complained of the foul smell.

This year, on January 4, the railway police found the rotting body of a young woman inside a blue plastic drum at the end of platform number 1 of the Yeswanthpur Railway Station. Police said the body was brought from Andhra Pradesh and dumped at the railway station.

Currently, the police are investigating the case of the dead body of the woman found at the railway station on Monday. But the incident has created a lot of concerns about safety.

Women's rights activist KS Vimala says that lethargic and delayed action by the police is the reason why such incidents continue to occur.

"The issue is not that enough laws are not there, the main concern is the inefficiency of the police and the authorities. If there are CCTV cameras all around the place, how are there three incidents in a span of three months? A railway station is not an isolated place, there are people and guards moving around the place and it is being monitored and then they say that they did not see anyone dumping a body there. Even in previous cases there has not been efficient and speedy investigation, this time the police should find the pattern in these crimes and ensure women's safety," she said.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Kusuma Hariprasad told BM that people come to the station from different states and they get a lot of luggage with them. "Most of the time the things are lying around so we didn't notice it because it was assumed that it was kitchen utensils or clothes. But when the passengers left the platform, we got to know that smell was coming and later, the body was discovered. We have checked the CCTV cameras and identified the people who have done this and notified the police, we are expecting that arrests will happen soon."

"Even in previous cases, there has not been efficient probes by the authorities

–KS Vimala, women's rights activists

She also added that people should not be scared to travel by railways as there are adequate cameras and the railway protection force. "If people see any suspicious object or a person, then they should immediately inform the railway personnel who is there. We have CCTV cameras that are being monitored continuously as well," she added.

IN BRIEF

Break from heat, expect rains

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the city may receive light showers or thundershowers on March 16 and 17. For the next few days, the sky may be partly cloudy with temperature around 32 to 18 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, the IMD has predicted pre-monsoon showers at many places in the state.

Isolated scattered very light to moderate rains likely over Malnad, coastal and south interior Karnataka districts, and isolated very light to light rains likely to prevail over north interior districts.

In the south interior, scattered very light to moderate rains likely over Mysuru, Mandya and Ramanagara districts, and isolated very light to light rains likely to prevail over remaining districts of the region. In the north interior, rainfall is expected over Vijayanagar, Ballari and Haveri districts.

Meanwhile, Kalaburagi recorded the highest maximum temperature of 36.9 degree Celsius while Bagalkot recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 13 degree Celsius. **BMB**

Flight test goes smoothly

A flight test of a power take off (PTO) shaft was conducted successfully on the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas in Bengaluru on Tuesday, the defence ministry said.

The PTO is a critical equipment that transmits power from aircraft engine to gearbox.

The ministry said that the maiden successful flight-test of the PTO shaft was conducted on LCA Tejas Limited Series Production (LSP)-3 aircraft.

"With this successful test, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a greater technological feat by realisation of complex high-speed rotor technology," it added.

The PTO shaft is indigenously designed and developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment of DRDO. **PTI**

Namma Yatri: Boon or bane?

App built by local auto union sees earnings close to Rs 7 crore in four months after its launch, customers complain about inconveniences

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More than four months after the launch of 'Namma Yatri', an app created by Bengaluru's local auto union, the app has managed to earn close to Rs 7 crore, as per the data revealed by the auto union.

So far, the drivers have earned Rs 6.8 crore by the app and have completed more than 4.15 lakh trips as of March 14. The app was launched in November 2022 by the Auto Rickshaw Driver Union (ARDU), Bengaluru after the auto drivers claimed that their services were taken over by private app aggregators like Ola and Uber.

According to the data made available by the union, the application has 43,140 registered drivers and 3.9 lakh registered users so far. Rudramurthy, general secretary of ARDU, told Bangalore Mirror that the app cuts down the cost of a middleman and is mutually beneficial for both commuters and auto drivers.

"It is a zero commission alternative available for auto rides which are flexible and give transparency to the commuters as well. Currently, we do not have digital payment available but the commuters can directly pay the drivers through UPI or cash," he said.

The data in the app also shows the commuters how many drivers are available in their area. Mahadevapura, BTM Layout, and Bommanahalli are a few of the areas where the highest numbers of rides are being covered through the app.

However, even though the app has managed to gain a good number of users over the past four months, the users still complain about the inconveniences, including ride cancellations and high fare prices.

Namma Yatri app was launched by Auto Rickshaw Driver Union, Bengaluru in November 2022

Namith K, a user of the Namma Yatri application, said, "I live in JP Nagar and I usually wait for 40 minutes to get a ride on this app. But even after a ride has been booked, the driver either cancels or does not show up on time. That is the reason I prefer other applications as they are a little more reliable though there is not much difference."

Maybe this depends on the location also because I have some friends who live in HSR Layout and the app functions better for them as there are more rides available, he added.

Namma Yatri app charges an additional fee of Rs 10 along with the government-fixed minimum fare prices as per the distance covered. However, the drivers can ask for up to Rs 30 over and above the fare as a 'nominal courtesy fee'.

The users can either choose from multiple options of drivers as per the fares or the app will automatically pick a ride.

> **"For most times when I compare the prices, they are much lower in Ola/ Uber apps. Sometimes the final fare at the end of the ride is much higher than the one shown on the app**
>
> – Prajalika, user of the app

According to Prajalika, another user of the app, she doesn't see how this app has done any good for the commuters in Bengaluru.

"For most times when I compare the prices, they are much lower in Ola/Uber apps. I try to rely less on those apps so I can support the local auto drivers, but sometimes the final fare at the end of the ride is much higher than the one shown on the app," said Prajalika, another user of the app. How is it beneficial and transparent for the user?" she said.

The Namma Yatri app was introduced by the auto drivers' union as aggregators against the high commission prices being levied by private apps such as Ola and Uber.

'Jolt to city's heritage'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

remain intact as there is no plan to bring it down," said citizen activist Vinay Kumar.

The road, residents said, has been wide enough and rarely faced traffic issues. Many highlight similar destructive activities going on in other parts of the city as the election approaches.

"Residents of Rajajinagar and Basaveshwaranagar are facing severe power cuts due to the ongoing tree-cutting activity of the BBMP. As the election approaches, the area MLA has invited a list of issues that the residents want to highlight — many have taken this chance to come up with a list of trees in front of their homes to be removed. For the first time in the last three decades, sunlight is falling on the ground," said a resident of Basaveshwaranagar.

Bengalureans were 'appalled that a historically significant structure was torn down in the city in broad daylight in the name of infra works. It shows that very few people are concerned about these issues, they felt. Some remembered the structure from their childhood days and pointed out that it must have been an integral part of the Lalbagh Lake.

"I remember passing by the structure on the way to my school in the 1980s. When the city was being developed and layouts came about, the then engineers designed the road and layout around the structure as they decided to preserve it. Unfortunately, the current officials are not sensitive enough to retain heritage structures. While traffic issues have to be solved, people's beliefs and culture must be given due respect," said lake activist Raghavendra B Pachhapur.

Citizen activists told BM that the structure was a fixture for a long time — razing it down can only be termed as a random act of cruelty. Netizens are of the view that the civic body should now get into the rubble and put the structure back as it was; they are also demanding a ward-level heritage manifesto.

"It is a jolt to the city's heritage and culture. BBMP should put the structure back in its original place. Let the civic body go through the rubble and put it back. There are alternate solutions to these random actions if the civic body wants to look at them. The city should now become careful and start monitoring heritage structures at ward levels. Every ward must handle their heritage with a consistent and collaborative effort to ensure such actions are not repeated in the future," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal, founder of Heritage Beku, a group of citizens working towards protecting Bengaluru's history.

Climate change: Release funds for communities at risk

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A total of 163 families of slum dwellers living in tin and tarpaulin shed houses across various shanty towns in the city, who sustained severe damage during the incessant rainfall in September last year, are yet to receive financial relief from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) revenue department.

While as many as 141 families from various slum areas in KR Market are yet to receive the compensation, 22 families from JJR Nagar are still waiting.

According to ActionAid Association, an organisation working with the slum dwellers in the city, areas of ward number 139 (Bakshi Garden, Jolly Mohalla and Anandapuram) and ward number 136 (Janatha colony) were flooded with water running out of the stormwater drain in September 2022. This led to water entering the houses of these families. In the process, the communities sustained damage and lost their documents, food provision, vegetable, clothing, blankets, carpets, and children lost their books and bags.

Immediately after the incident, the communities with the support of Slum Mahila Sanghatane submitted applications for relief funds to BBMP's revenue department at ward number 139. While officials from the department visited the area a few days later to assess the situation, the fund is yet to be released.

"We have reached out to the officials concerned on multiple occasions but to no avail. We have also been told unofficially by some officials at the revenue department that the funds will never get disbursed. However, officially we have been informed that the file is stuck at the joint commissioner's office in the west zone," said Jhansi, a member of Slum Mahila Sanghatane.

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Those working towards the upliftment of low-income communities say these groups are disproportionately impacted due to natural calamities and extreme weather events.

Between June and August last year, rainfall in Bengaluru was 60 per cent above the long-period average. Poor planning and encroachment of stormwater drains led to a flood-like situation creating havoc for disadvantaged communities living in slums, low-lying areas, and adjacent to SWDs.

Experts say vulnerable communities who went through the wrath of incessant rains in Bengaluru last year need to be compensated for their losses without any further delay.

"Vulnerable communities who went through the wrath of incessant rains in Bengaluru last year need to be compensated for their losses without any further delay. Many of these communities depend on daily labour and end up paying a high percentage of the credit for managing these crises," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur of ActionAid.

BBMP needs to set aside a fund for the climate change-affected vulnerable communities and release it on time for their relief, recovery, and rehabilitation, he added.

The toll of malfunction

Confusion prevailed due to toll collection at the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. Inset: Police step in after a protest

Falling boom barriers and toll at B'luru-Mysuru expressway startle motorists

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A day of drama ensued as toll collection began under high police security for the first leg of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway on Tuesday. Many commuters were shocked, not just by the toll, but also by malfunctioning boom barriers which fell on cars, partially damaging them. One such citizen was travelling towards the airport. After the scanner recognised the FASTag, the boom barrier went up. However, it dropped even before the car could move, he reported. "I initially thought it was an error as the staff tried to lift it. However, it fell again, further damaging the bonnet. I raised the issue with the toll operator, but no one came to my aid," he said.

Suresh Gowda, a resident of Kengeri, said, "How can you col- lect tolls when basic amenities are not provided? The lighting is poor and we are scared to travel in the night, especially between Ramanagar and Channapatna where a number of thefts have taken place. There are no petrol bunks, and if the car runs out of fuel, you are stranded. There are no restaurants or toilet facilities either." Even Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) drivers had their share of woes. A bus driver ferrying passengers towards Wonderla said that he used the service road instead of the flyover. The former ends at the toll plaza and money was deducted. "This means we need to pay the toll price from our pocket," he said.

Some activists staged protests and even damaged barriers. They said that the toll collection was illegal without completion of service roads. Police detained them and cleared the way. KPCC President DK Shivakumar alleged that he had to pay Rs 270 for travelling between Bidadi and Ramanagar on Tuesday instead of Rs 135 due to non-functioning of FASTag due to a technical snag.

> **How can you collect tolls when basic amenities are not provided? Lighting is poor and we are scared to travel at night** –Suresh Gowda, citizen

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had notified the toll fee for the first stretch of highway (Bengaluru-Nidaghatta). Cars will be charged Rs 135 for single entry (Rs 205 for return on the same day), LCVs have to pay Rs 220 (Rs 330 for return), Rs 460 for trucks and bus (Rs 690 for return), and Rs 880 for oversized vehicles (Rs 1,315 for return).

Locals have been demanding free entry for locals on the expressway. An NHAI official had previously said that they had introduced a monthly pass for them and are providing other concessions.

Meanwhile, KSRTC said, "To offset the toll cost, KSRTC is constrained to levy a user fee of Rs 15 per passenger travelling in Karnataka Sarige buses, Rs 18 in Rajahamsa buses, and Rs 20 in other buses/ multi-axle buses. This user fee is applicable only for passengers travelling in buses operated exclusively on the expressway. User fee will not be levied for other services."

Creativity out of waste

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At a unique event 'Best out of Waste', students were encouraged to think creatively and develop innovative ideas to create useful articles using waste materials available in their environment.

The event was organised by Master of Business Administration (MBA) students of CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT) to create awareness on the importance of meeting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of responsible consumption and production.

The students were motivated to come out with novel ideas and prepare articles with the available waste in their environment. A total of 48 articles were received from different students, which were graded and given prizes.

"We have made it clear to the students that they have to collect waste from the CMR Institute of Technology and make products of the waste. We only allowed them to bring fevicol from outside which is the only new product used for recycling the waste products," said Dr Sanjeev Kumar, associate professor.

The event not only showcased the creativity of the students but also highlighted the importance of responsible waste management.

The students experimented with reusable materials such as plastic and recyclable materials such as newspapers and cardboard boxes, along with others in order to innovate and come up with aesthetically pleasing articles.

"My theme was to save trees. I carried a water can and held placards for six hours on the campus to create awareness on the importance of having more greenery in the city," said Varun MR, a student.

The organisers have also arranged six different games to keep the visitors engaged and to promote the theme of 'Save Trees'.

The team displayed the theme in a very innovative way, which was appreciated by the visitors.

Where there is will, there's hornbill

As lake is being restored, variety of birds spotted — latest is Grey Hornbill

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Over the years, Kaggadasapura Lake's ecosystem has deteriorated due to poor maintenance, resulting in untreated sewage entering the lake. The lake gradually dried up and frothing was observed. However, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has started rejuvenation work at the lake thanks to much coaxing by citizens.

A range of bird species and different varieties of butterflies have been spotted at the lake. Sujith Nair, a bird watcher, who has started photographing birds and butterflies at the lake, has seen over 50 species of birds and 20-plus butterfly varieties.

However, two days ago, Nair spotted the Indian grey hornbill, which has grey feathers all over its body with a light grey or dull white belly. The hornbill is said to be one of the few species found in urban areas where they can make use of large trees in avenues.

So far, according to the ebird.org website, over 3,802 sightings have been recorded of the Indian grey hornbill. However, at Kaggadasapura lake, it was the first such sighting, which thrilled many people and walkers nearby.

Nair said, "On March 11, I was walking by the lake in the morning and suddenly I spotted a pair of Indian Grey Hornbills. I was excited to see the bird as this species was earlier never found in and around the lake. The hornbills are generally sighted in pairs, and their nesting season is April-June. As of today, we have recorded over 50 species in and around the lake. Recently, we have even seen painted stork here."

> **For the past 12 years, the citizen movement to clean the lake has brought some results, and BBMP has started work** –A resident of the area

The residents pointed out this goes to show that the lake has rich biodiversity and needs to be taken care of. "From the past 12 years, the citizen movement to clean the lake has brought some results, and gradually BBMP has started work to clean the lake. But there is no effort to conserve the lake. BBMP has carried out dewatering of the lake and is creating diversion channels for sewage," he said.

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Clarification on Name
I Vignesh Harsha P. S/o Pradeep Babu H.S residing at Old Madras Road, Sharabh Munishamaiah Layout, near Kamakshi Motors, Hoskote, Bengaluru-562114 stating that my name mentioned in School Records and Aadhar card as Vignesh Harsha P. But my name mentioned in Bajaj Alianz Policy in the 2006 as Harshavardan H.P. So above mentioned names Vignesh Harsha P. and Harshavardan H.P both are one person only and that belongs to me only. All the above information is correct and true. Therefore, I have sworn before Notary and Advocate R.Jyshree, Hoskote vide affidavit dated 17.05.2022.

I, Pradeepa Jayarama S/o Jayarama D R/o #10,1st C Main, Vivekananda Nagar, Kat-hriguppe, B'luru 560085 have changed my name to Pradeep Jayarama for all purposes

I, Manjusha Byadgi, R/o #1710/10A, Choudeshwari Badavane, 5th Cross, Ranebennur-581115, have changed my name to Manjusha P Byadagi.

I, Smt. Sowmya M Huded W/o. Mallikarjunagouda Huded, R/a # 18, 5th Cross, Rajeshwari Nagara, Near National Public School Leggere, Bangalore 560058. My name has mentioned in aadhaar card as Smt. Sowmya M Huded but issued by My Ration Card Smt. Basavva Patil. I Further declare that Smt Sowmya M huded and Smt Sharada are one and the same name and Same person belongs to me. Vide affidavit dtd 27-02-23 sworn before notary V. Nagarajan Bangalore.

I, Jyothi Rajiv, D/o H R Anantharam, R/o 307/A-1, 1st cross, 10th main, 4th phase, 7th block, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bangalore-85 have changed my name to Jyothi Anantharam for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 13-03-23 sworn before notary H.G. Padmanabha Rao Bangalore.

I, Catherine Mamtha W/o Arun Stevenson J R/at No.38, 5th Cross, Esther Enclave, Near Vibgyor School, Jayanthi Nagar, Horamavu, B'luru-560043 have changed my name from S Mamatha to Catherine Mamtha vide affidavit dt 14/03/2023 notary Uday Kumar K

I, Vasant Kolse, S/O Prabhakar Appa Kolse, Address- flat no 1, second floor, Ganesh Reddy building, celebrity layout road, Doddathogur, Electronic City phase 1, Bangalore- 560100 has changed my name to Vasant Prabhakar Kolse for all future purposes.

I Shanaz W/O, Syed Kalim R/o No.62/1, 5th Cross, Govt. Electric Factory, Manjunath Nagar, New Guddadahalli, Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Shanaz Banu for all purposes Notary Aravind Patil

I, Rubby, D/O Ravindra Kumar Singh, Address- Flat No. B023, Vajram Essenza, Thanisandra Main Road, Karnataka, Bangalore- 560064, has changed my name to Rubby Singh for all future purposes.

I Priya S Jain,R/o No.1/3, Burgull Mutt Road, VV Puram, Bengaluru-04 have changed my name from Priya to Priya S Jain vide affidavit dtd 13-3-2023 sworn before notary Bhagya Kumari N, Bengaluru

I,LALITH Kumar Sharma S/o Mohan Ramchander R/o No 49, 1st Cross Gopalappa Layout, Kempapura, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024 have changed my name to Mohan Lalith Kumar Sharma for all purposes.

I Gayatri Mahesh Iyer W/O, Ramsundar Rajagopal R/o E504, Purva Midtown, Dooravani Nagar, FCI Godown Raod, Bangalore - 560016 have changed my name to Gayatri Iyer for all purposes.

I Sraddhanjali Barik D/O Binod kumar Barik R/O Marathalli, Bangalore has Changed my name from Sradhanjali Barik to Sraddhanjali Barik for all future purposes.

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ಬಿಳಾಸ: ಸ್ವಸ್ತಿಕ್ ಕಾರ್ಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಶೇಷಾದ್ರಿಪುರಂ ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು,
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ಮಂಡಿ, ಬೆನ್ನು, ಕತ್ತುನೋವು, ಕೀಲು ನೋವು, ಲಕ್ವ, ಹಿಮ್ಮಡಿ ನೋವು, ತಲೆನೋವು, ಮೈಗ್ರೇನ್, ಚಿಕನ್‌ಗುನ್ಯ, ಗಂಟು ನೋವು, ರೂಮೆಟಿಡ್‌ಆರ್ಥ್ರೈಟಿಸ್, ಪೆರಿಕೋಸ್ ವೆಯಿನ್ಸ್ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆ, ಸೊಂಟ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲುಗಳಲ್ಲ ಶಕ್ತಿ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡವರಿಗೆ ಸಯಾಟಿಕ, ಮೂಳೆ ನೋವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಔಷಧಿ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ, ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಶಸ್ತ್ರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ವಿಶೇಷವಾದ ACU..... ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರೋ ಮ್ಯಾಗ್ನೆಟಿಕ್ ಥೆರಪಿಯಿಂದ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಪಡೆಯಿರಿ.

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 # Chin up!
"All That Breathes" director Shaunak Sen says he has been flooded with messages of "encouragement/support" after his climate change documentary lost out to "Navalny" at the Oscars

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Director's vision

Real Star Upendra aka Uppi has been busy shuttling between major cities across the country to promote his latest movie Kabza that is made in multiple languages and scheduled for release on March 17. "Kabza is director R Chandru's movie. It is his dream project. He dreamt big and worked hard to realise his dream. I was a bit hesitant when he told me the script. I had a doubt whether it would be possible to implement his plan but when I attended a photo shoot, I realised Chandru can do it," said Upendra.

Interacting with media persons in Bengaluru on Sunday, Upendra said that he is very happy with the positive response for the trailer that was released in all languages. "I was elated when my brother-in-law called me from Kolkata and said he had heard people discuss Kabza that will also be released in Bengali at a hotel there," Upendra said.

He said the trailer of Kabza has introduced the movie to film lovers and said it has all ingredients to entertain them. He said he had spent maximum days on the shoot for this film and praised its dedicated technical team.

For the love of films

Megadahalli Dr Shivakumar debuts as a script writer with the movie Prabhutva that has a tagline – Indian Politics. Dr Shivakumar's son Raviraj S Kumar has bankrolled this movie. The film's trailer was released recently.

At the trailer launch, Dr Shivakumar said he has been passionate about movies since his childhood. "I used to bunk classes to watch Dr Rajkumar's movie Naa Ninna Mareyalare at Nalanda theatre," recalled Dr Shivakumar.

He said as his parents were very strict. "They used lock the gate by 5.30 pm to make me focus on studies but I used to come down from the first floor using a rope to go to the nearby movie theatre to watch the second show," he said. He added that he has made it a practice to book a ticket for his son Raviraj whenever a new movie is released. Raviraj said he had no idea why his father used to book movie tickets for him all these years. "I think he did not want me to jump the compound wall of our home to go to movie theaters at night. Now, it is too late for me to do that," said Raviraj.

It's complicated

Shraddha Kapoor on the twists and turns in relationships

Actress Shraddha Kapoor recently opened up about being cheated on in a relationship.

In an interview with a news portal, Shraddha spoke about modern relationships and how they are slowly becoming frivolous. When asked if it's become difficult for her to align with "today's definition of love," she said that when people talk about terms like situation-ship she doesn't understand. As far as eternal love is concerned, the actress feels it is not impossible. According to her, she is an optimistic person and she would like to believe in fairytales.

Shraddha was asked if she has caught somebody lying in a relationship. She said that everybody has experienced liars in their lives and so has she. There is only one way to deal with them and it is by leaving them, exiting the relationship, the actress told Bollywood Bubble.

"There is only one way to deal with liars & that is to leave them and exit the relationship"

Rumour mills were abuzz with reports of Shraddha dating celebrity photographer Rohan Shrestha for the longest time. However, the duo reportedly broke up in 2022 after four years of dating.

—ETimes

Samantha gets emotional

Samantha Ruth Prabhu who is gearing up for her upcoming movie pan-India mythological drama film 'Shaakuntalam', recently expressed her emotions on the film after watching it for the first time.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Oo Antava' star shared a picture of herself posing with the team and which she captioned, "And I finally watched the movie today! Gunashekar garu.. you have my heart. What a beautiful film! One of our greatest epics brought to life so endearingly! I can't wait for our family audiences to be swept away by the powerful emotions! And all you kids out there... you're going to love our magical world! Dil Raju garu and Neelima... thank you for this journey. Shaakuntalam will forever be close to me!"

—ANI

I age man!

Keanu Reeves and filmmaker Chad Stahelski wowed fans of the 'John Wick' franchise with the screening of the upcoming fourth installment at the South By Southwest Film Festival (SXSW). 'John Wick: Chapter 4' brings back Reeves as the titular assassin alongside a host of franchise regulars as well as newcomers. The film, directed by Stahelski, is scheduled to be released worldwide later this month.

According to the reports, the special screening was attended by a 1000-plus strong audience who later welcomed Reeves and Stahelski with a loud cheer when they came out on stage.

"You guys are amazing. Thanks for that experience," Reeves said.

The Hollywood star and the director faced a barrage of queries from the fans.

Another fan asked him if he ever ages. "Yeah man, I age. I really - I age. It's happening, man."

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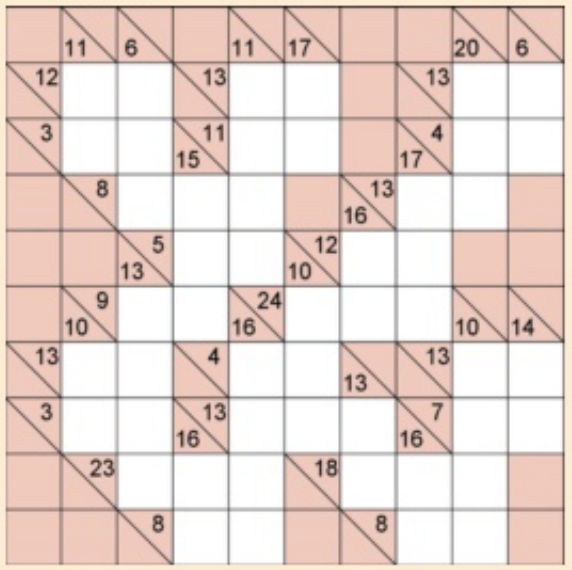
Aayush Mohan
Sarod
Lakshay Mohan
Sitar
Marvel of Jugalbandi
Season 2
Mumbai | Delhi | Bengaluru
"First Indians to perform at The Grammy Museum, Los Angeles" - Times of India
"Tremendous craftsmanship" - Times of India
"Unique Style of Playing" - Fox Television, USA
Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Bengaluru
17th March (Friday) 2023 7 pm
Tickets on bookmyshow & insider.in
Or Scan the QR Code

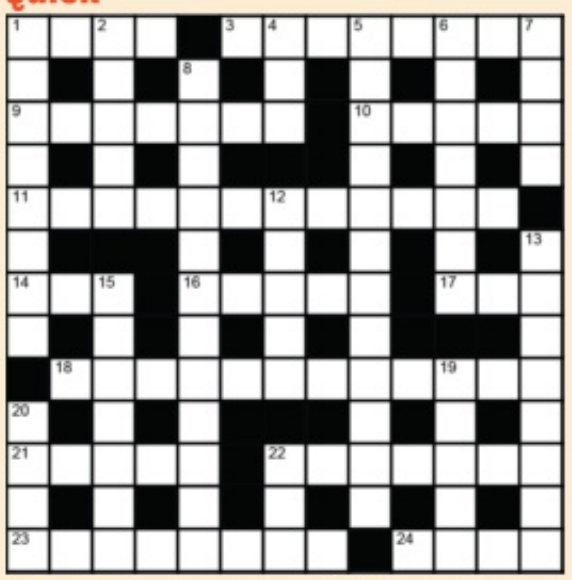
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 In addition (4)
3 Amorous (8)
9 Wash clothes (7)
10 Excited (3,2)
11 Two-way radio (6-6)
14 Louse egg (3)
16 Permeate (5)
17 Secret agent ? (3)
18 National park 25 kms from the heart of the city (12)
21 Nothing (5)
22 Boulevards (7)
23 It has 366 days (4,4)
24 A small hut (4)

DOWN

1 Permitting or letting (8)
2 Skeletal head (5)
4 Over in verse (3)
5 Weak spot (8,4)
6 Tasty morsels (7)
7 Short sleeveless cloak (4)
8 Furthermore (12)
12 Rome's river (5)
13 Took a detour (8)
15 Windpipe (7)
19 Verity (5)
20 Organic compound (4)
22 Eastern bigwig (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS G

F BXOD LXZ QID AXED QICQ F JDBFDOD LXZ ICOD BFRDY AD UXE AL XGH MCRD CHY UXE HXQIFHV DBMD.

Linemaro

Did anyone ever tell you that you have awesome hair?

Mindchow

Talent hits a target no one else can hit; genius hits a target no one else can see

Joke of the day

England play San Marino tomorrow. A country so small that if you kick the ball into the goalpost, you have to go through customs to get it back

Loop

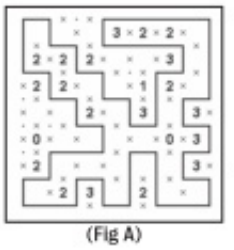
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

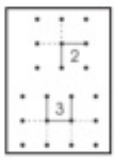
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

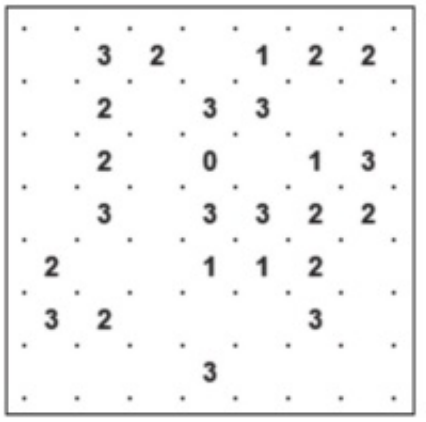
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



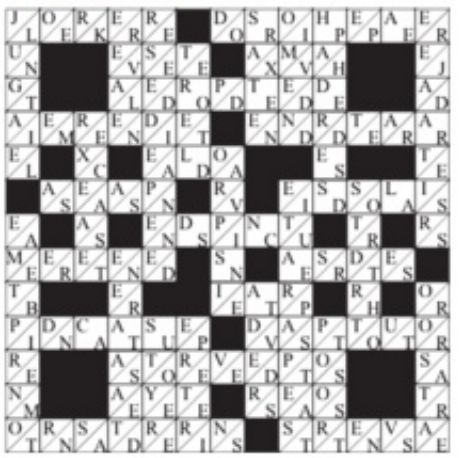
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



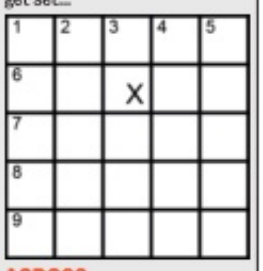
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

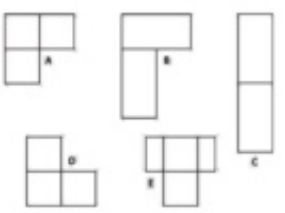
1 Camps; 6 I me ox; 7 A sari; 8 Toons; 9 Us hum

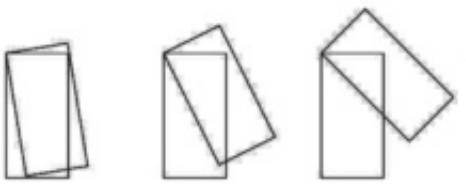
DOWN

1 Shams; 2 No cur; 3 O Maxi; 4 Ma IOU; 5 Steps

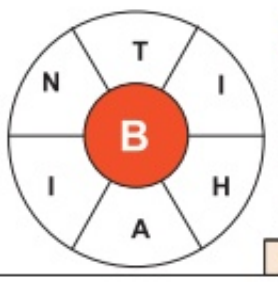
Mensapuzzle

What comes next?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2	6				1	7	
3			6		7			8
1								3
5	4			2			6	9
			7		6			
2	6			3			4	7
7								6
4			8		2			1
	3	8				4	5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 23
5 5 6 7

Medium = 1
4 5 6 6

Hard = 22
2 3 7 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

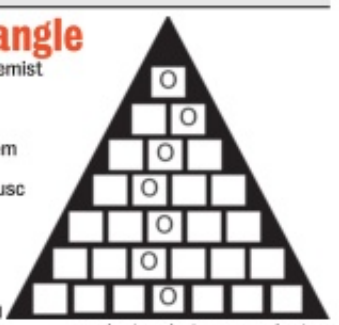
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Bush is missing. 3. Nose is different. 4. Bracelet is added. 5. Hair is longer. 6. Patch is added to elbow of jacket.

Riddler

Scarlet mask upon his head, Haunts the quick and eats the dead. Rises on a Zephyr's breath, Ebon angel, Prince of Death What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Oxygen for the chemist
2 Thus
3 Bribe
4 Policemen
5 Exclusive news item
6 Preempts (2-4)
7 Eight-armed mollusc



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

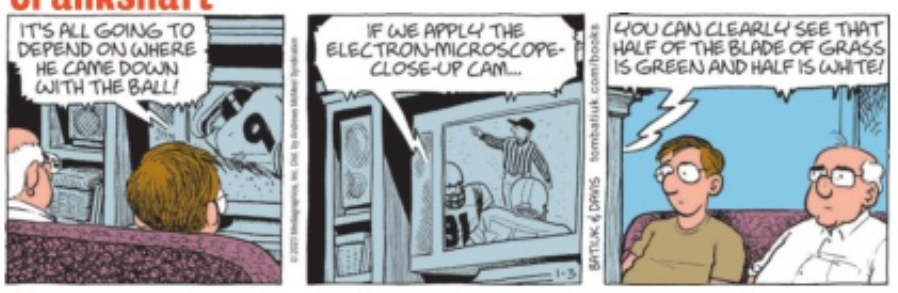
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft


IT'S ALL GOING TO DEPEND ON WHERE HE CAME DOWN WITH THE BALL!
IF WE APPLY THE ELECTRON-MICROSCOPE-CLOSE-UP CAM...
YOU CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT HALF OF THE BLADE OF GRASS IS GREEN AND HALF IS WHITE!
BATUK & DAVIS tombatuk.com/books

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in business. It is also advised not to start new ventures. You are likely to face losses in your business. Your gains may convert to losses.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel good. Domestic harmony will make you happy. You will meet some influential people to get some benefits on the work front. You are likely to perform well at your job. You may expect some rewards in terms of promotions. Disputes over inherited property are likely to settle down.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be healthy. You may be able to focus towards your goals. Your performance may be very good at work. Your boss may be happy with you. You may get some important responsibilities at work. You may hear good news in legal matters. You are likely to have control over your opponents and business rivals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may prefer gaining knowledge. You may understand the value of the intellectual asset. Sometimes you may control your short temperedness, which may help you perform your tasks smoothly. There may be some chances for smooth earnings, which may give you comfort in the workflow. You are advised to be careful before making new investments. Lovebirds may enjoy happy moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be dissatisfied. You may have some sort of detachment from your responsibilities, which can leave you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. Take care of your parents. If you are planning to migrate somewhere, it is advised to postpone it for some days.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is a positive day for you. You may get success for your hard work on the professional and domestic front. You may have good focus and will complete your work on time, which can improve your self-confidence. You may also expect some work-related short trips which will help you in the near future in terms of your network.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household items. You are advised to control spending money on worthless items, otherwise it may attract negative energy in the house. You are also advised to control your harsh way of speaking with the people around you.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel comfortable after a messy situation. Your vitality may help you implement some tough decisions in your parental business, which may grow the same. You may help needy people around you, which may increase your social respect. Students might be clear in choosing their career options.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may face health issues, which can make you impatient. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless things. It may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be breakups.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may meet some influential person who can help you with the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas in your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital in your business. This may give you financial gains in the near future. In terms of your domestic life, you will be busy with your family get-together and social events.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today your mothers' health may be good. You may enjoy it at work. You may get rewards after your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind can make you tired. Due to workload, you may not be able to attend a family event.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be satisfied with your work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit a spiritual place to maintain your inner peace. Your elders may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

KIDZONE

Pooja A Jain, 11 Years, New Oxford English School

Adithya Prasad, 7 Years, Brigade School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=-(121)+(-110)
=-121/-110=1.1

BULL'S EYE
bait, batch, habit, INHABIT, tibia

RIDDLER
Vulture

QUOTE UNCODE
I love you the more that I believe you have liked me for my own sake and for nothing else.

FAST FIVE

H	U	M	U	S
S	N	O	O	T
A	R	I	A	S
M	O	X	I	E
S	C	A	M	P

STRIKE OUT

T	R	A	D	E	I	N		S	T	E	Y	E		
N		E	Y	E		R	E	S		T				
E		S	T	R	E	E	T	S		A				
		N		C		A		V	A	P	O	U	R	
I	N	C	A	S	E		V	A	P	O	U	R		
B		R		E	A	R		H		O				
M	E	T	E	D		N		E	S	T	E			
A		A		E	D	I	C	T		R	S			
S	E	A	N		V		I	D	O	L	S			
L		X		E	D	O		E		E				
A	M	E	N	D	E		E	N	D	E	A	R		
G		A	D	O	P	T	E	D		D				
U		V	E	T		A	M	A		E				
J	O	K	E	R		D	R	O	P	P	E	R		

QUICK

L	E	A	P	Y	E	A	R		S	H	E	D		
O		E		L		G		T		E				
N	I	H	I	L		A	V	E	N	U	E	S		
E		C		A		E		R		S				
B	A	N	N	E	R	G	H	A	Y	T	A			
G		R		O		E		S		P				
I	N	I	T		I	M	B	U	E	S	P	Y		
		T		I		L		T		B				
W	A	L	K	I	E	T	A	L	K	I	E			
O		L		D		I		B		E				
L	A	U	N	D	E	R		H	E	T	U	P		
L		K		A		E		C		I		A		
A	L	S	O		R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C		

MENSA PUZZLE
8: one rectangle remains stationary while the other rotates by half of the length of the stationary rectangle anticlockwise at each stage

SUDOKU

6	3	8	9	7	1	4	5	2
4	5	9	8	6	2	7	3	1
7	1	2	4	5	3	9	8	6
2	6	1	5	3	9	8	4	7
9	8	3	7	4	6	2	1	5
5	4	7	1	2	8	3	6	9
1	7	5	2	8	4	6	9	3
3	9	4	6	1	7	5	2	8
8	2	6	3	9	5	1	7	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0, So, Sop, Oops, Scoop, Co-opts, Octopus.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 6 + 5 + 7 = 23
Medium
6 + 5 − 6 − 4 = 1
Hard
3 + 7 × 2 + 2 = 22

LOOP

KAKURO

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Vehicle sales: Festivals seen driving March

Retail sales of vehicles in India jumped 16% to around 1.8 million units in February, helped in part by strong demand during the wedding season, an industry body of automobile dealers said on Monday, adding that festivals could push the sales higher in March.

Sales have picked up in the last two months as chip shortages eased and automakers launched new models to tap into the demand ahead of the festival and wedding seasons. However, rising interest rates amid elevated inflation are seen as a sentiment dampener, with overall sales in February still below pre-Covid levels.

Sales of two-wheelers advanced 15%, while those of three-wheelers jumped 81%, passenger vehicles 11%, tractors 14%, and commercial vehicles 17%, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said in a statement.

Changes in emission norms from April, which would see vehicle prices increase, and automakers rolling out promotional offers in the final month of the fiscal year, should help push sales higher in March, FADA added.

Two of India's top three listed bike makers TVS Motor Company and Hero MotoCorp beat domestic sales estimates in Feb

The industry body cited a slew of festivals, including the two-day festival of colours - Holi, and regional new year celebrations Ugadi and Gudi Padwa, for the demand in March.

FADA publishes retail sales data, while the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), which usually releases data in the second week of the month, counts vehicles sold to dealers.

Auto sales numbers are keenly watched, as they are one of the key indicators to assess private consumption and carry more than 50% weightage in calculating the country's economic growth.

Meanwhile, the industry body warned that predictions of a return of El Niño weather conditions in the Pacific, which could mean a weaker monsoon in India and result in lower output and higher prices, may be a dampener for sales of commercial vehicles.

Two of India's top three listed bike makers TVS Motor Company and Hero MotoCorp beat domestic sales estimates in February as chip supply shortages eased.

The three-wheeler segment continued to witness robust demand after the government subsidies breached pre-pandemic levels for the first time in February, FADA said.

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